

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: August 11, 2003

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-116)

TO: Peter Lofy
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager, KEWL-4

Proposed Action: Fabricate and Install New Huntsville Mill Fish Screen

Project No: 2002-002-00

Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Wildlife Mitigation Program EIS): 1.15 Fish Passage Enhancement – Fishways, 4.23 Intake and Return Diversion Screens, 9.23 Construction – Erosion and Sediment Control Structures

Location: Touchet River, T.9N., R.38E., SW ¼, NW ¼ Sec.5,
Columbia County, Washington

Proposed by: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: The WDFW and BPA are proposing to replace a fish screen at the Huntsville Mill site, which serves as a diversion for agricultural irrigation. The existing fish screen on this diversion was originally constructed in 1957 and modified in 1969, but does not meet current NOAA Fisheries and WDFW fish criteria and standards. The existing screen does not provide sufficient submergence for self-cleaning, the approach velocities exceed current criteria, and the screen facility does not guide fish safely through the facility and back to the river. Currently, the project site requires annual construction of push-up dams in the Touchet River to ensure the capture of water into the irrigation canal during low flow periods. In addition, there is no existing headgate to directly control incoming canal water from the river. The new screen will be constructed at the WDFW Construction Shop in Yakima, Washington, which is equipped to manufacture screens to appropriate specifications and design.

The project includes the following individual components:

- 1). Fabricate and install a headgate located near the entrance of the irrigation canal to allow manual control of water entering the diversion.
- 2). Remove the existing screen and install a new fabricated drum fish screen (including fabricated imbedded and miscellaneous metal work, lift gantry, instream grade control structure, safety fencing and handrail).
- 3). Excavate and clean out the irrigation canal (in a dewatered environment) to restore canal capacity.
- 4). Install a new bypass pipe to enable safe fish returns back to the Touchet River, and
- 5). Reshape the river bottom near the entrance of the irrigation canal with installation of rocks and boulders to ensure water is available to the canal during low flow periods.

All instream construction will be completed by September 30, 2003, revegetation and site clean up by November 30, 2003; and preparation of as-built prints and operational procedures by December 31, 2003.

A more descriptive explanation of the proposed actions is contained in the NEPA Compliance Checklist for Watershed Management Projects (dated December 1, 2002 by the WDFW), and in the Biological Assessment and EFH Assessment for the Huntsville Mill Fish Screen Replacement (dated May, 2003 by BPA).

Analysis: The NEPA compliance checklist (referenced above) for this project was completed by Eric Egbers (WDFW) which meets the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD). We find that that long-term benefits of this project surpasses any minor, short-term impacts that are likely to occur.

To initiate consultation in accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), BPA submitted a Biological Assessment (BA) for the project to NOAA Fisheries and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) on May 6, 2003. A copy of the BA is located in the KEC project files. The ESA-listed species that may occur in the project area are the bald eagle, Ute ladies'-tresses, bull trout, mid-Columbia River steelhead, mid-Columbia River Chinook salmon, and mid-Columbia River coho salmon. In the BA, BPA determined that the proposed actions "may affect, but are not likely to adversely affect" each of the aforementioned species. BPA also determined that the proposed actions would not adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat for the Chinook and coho salmon. On July 30, 2003, ([Attachment 1](#)), the FWS issued its letter of concurrence with BPA's findings contingent upon: 1) the project being implemented as described in the BA, 2) all instream work being completed by September 30, 2003, and 3) fish movements across the gradient not be restricted. These conditions are hereby required as part of this environmental clearance.

In an electronic mail dated July 23, 2003, ([Attachment 2](#)), NOAA Fisheries identified that the following biological opinion more appropriately covers this project for the mid-Columbia steelhead than the BA: "Minor Diversion Screen Installations for Walla Walla Basin Biological Opinion (WHB-02-189, 2002/00520) ([Attachment 3](#)). Accordingly, we agree with their assessment. Therefore, to minimize negative impacts and reduce risks of adverse effects on steelhead, and exempt the project from prohibitions of ESA Section 9, we require implementation of the Conservation BMPs, and Terms and Conditions that are contained identified in the BO, as necessary, along with the proposed actions contained in the BA.

To comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, BPA conducted a cultural resources survey of the project area in September 2002, and submitted the survey report to the Washington State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) on December 11, 2002. A copy of the survey was also provided to the Nez Perce Tribe and Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation on December 17, 2002. In those letters, BPA revealed that it had found no historic properties in the Area of Potential Effect and concluded that no historic properties would be affected by the project. BPA stated that in the unlikely event archaeological material would be encountered during project implementation, an archaeologist will immediately be notified and work halted until the finds can be inspected and assessed. In a December 13, 2002, letter ([Attachment 4](#)), the Assistant State Archaeologist of the WA Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation concurred with BPA's findings, and further required that if archaeological or historical materials are discovered during construction, then the SHPO office and appropriate Tribal cultural communities be notified (Log No. 121302-81-BPA).

Standard water quality protection procedures and Best Management Practices will be followed during implementation of this project. Excavated areas requiring stabilization will be covered with coir fabric or excelsior erosion blankets and reseeded with native vegetation to reestablish vegetation as quickly as possible. Proper grading and sloping of excavated areas will follow the stabilization practices.

No construction is authorized to begin until the proponent has obtained all applicable local, state, and federal permits and authorizations, including landowner agreement(s). Currently, the WDFW has secured the following: Columbia County Planning Department – letter that no JARPA permit required (June 11, 2003); U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 of the Clean Water Act -no permit required (May 21, 2003); Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Hydraulic Project Approval (May 28, 2003); Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife – no significant environmental impacts, and project meets requirements of state EPA (May 28, 2003); Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife – Determination of Non-Significance (May 28, 2003). In addition, an agreement between the WDFW and the irrigators was consummated on July 23, 2003, that contains limitations.

Public involvement has taken place as part of the development of the Huntsville project. The WDFW has cooperatively worked with the landowner, local, Federal, and state agencies to apprise them of the project scope and project status, and to reduce costs and increase benefits. An agreement with the landowner was recently secured.

Findings: The project is generally consistent with Section 7.6A.2, 7.6B.3, & 7.8E.1, of the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program. This Supplement Analysis finds 1) that the proposed actions are consistent with the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265) and ROD, and 2) that there are no new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed actions or their impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Carl J. Keller 08/11/03

Carl J. Keller

Fish and Wildlife Biologist

CONCUR:

/s/ Thomas C. McKinney

Thomas C. McKinney

NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: 08/11/03

Attachments:

1. USFWS letter of concurrence dated July 30, 2003
2. NOAA Fisheries electronic mail, dated July 23, 2003
3. Minor Diversion Screen Installations for the Walla Walla Basin Biological Opinion (WHB-02-189, 2002/00520) dated September 25, 2002
4. WA Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation Letter of Concurrence dated December 13, 2003

cc: (w/attachments)

Mr. Eric Egbers – Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Yakima Screen Shop, 3705 West Washington Avenue, Yakima, WA 98903-1137